

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEP 19 1952

August 19, 1952 SS 117

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Despite Droughts Crop Prospects Still Good

Despite drought in parts of the country, the August 1 prospects for 1952 total crop production continued to be good. The Nation's crop output will be larger than in any other year except 1948 and 1949. Prospects for drought-affected crops such as corn, all hay, tobacco, and sweet potatoes have declined from July 1 forecasts. But, these drops have been partly offset by improvements in the out-turn of wheat, barley, flaxseed, dry beans, sugar beets, and sugar cane. The cotton crop will be above 1950 and the 10-year average, but below 1951.

## Second Largest Wheat Crop Indicated

All wheat production is estimated at 1,298 million bushels, nearly 50 million higher than the July 1 prospects. This crop would be second only to the 1947 crop when 1,359 million bushels were harvested. The yield of wheat per acre in 1952 is estimated at 18.4 bushels, compared with 16.1 bushels in 1951 and the 10-year average of 17.2 bushels.

## Record Winter Wheat Crop

Winter wheat production is indicated at 1,063 million bushels, the largest on record. This indication is 14 million bushels more than a month earlier. The current estimate exceeds the 1951 crop of 645 million bushels by 65 percent and is 263 million bushels or 33 percent larger than average. The indicated yield per harvested acre of 21.1 bushels compares with a 16.2 bushel yield in 1951 and an average of 17.7 bushels.

## Spring Wheat Production Down

Spring wheat is estimated at 236 million bushels, up 35 million from a month ago. But the indicated crop is about one-third smaller than in 1951 and a sixth smaller than average.

## Cotton Crop of 14.7 Million Bales

A cotton crop of 14.7 million bales is forecast for 1952 on the basis of August 1 information. This will be 409 million bales less than the 1951 crop. It compares with the 1950 crop of 10 million bales and the 10-year average of 11.8 million bales.

## Big Corn Crop Still Indicated

Corn prospects were cut 229 million bushels below the July estimate by hot and dry weather in some sections of the Nation. The 1952 crop is now estimated at 3,136 million bushels compared with 2,941 million bushels in 1951 and the 1941-50 average of 3,012 million bushels.

## Pasture Condition Down to 1939 Level

Extremely hot and dry weather also hit farm pasture feed in July. On August 1, the condition of the country's pastures as a whole averaged 69 percent of normal, the same as in 1939 and otherwise the lowest for the date since the great droughts of the middle 1930's.

## Smaller Tobacco Crop

The forecast for tobacco is 8 percent below the July forecast and less than the 1951 crop. But, it is well above the 10-year average.

## Hay Production Hit

The dry weather during July also made the hay outlook worse than a month ago. Indications are that the 1952 crop will be less than 100 million tons. This is

nearly 9 million tons less than the large 1951 crop and a million and a half tons less than average.

## Larger Potato Crop Indicated

Prospects for the potato crop declined about 1 percent in July, with a large part of this decline in the Eastern States. A crop of 335 million bushels for 1952 is indicated. This production is almost 10 million bushels larger than the 1951 crop, but lower than the 1941-50 average.

## Smallest Rye Crop in Over 80 Years

Favorable weather has increased the rye indication to 15.8 million bushels, or 1 percent above the July 1 estimate. Lower acreage and reduced yield prospects will result in the smallest rye crop in over 80 years.

## Small Soybean Crop

Conditions point to soybean production of 264 million bushels, about 6 percent less than last year and 12 percent less than the record 1950 crop.

## Record Rice Crop Indications

A record rice crop is still indicated. The August forecast, nearly the same as the July, pointed to a crop of 45.4 million bags (100 lbs.) This indication is 4 percent more than the previous record harvested in 1951 and 38 percent more than the 10-year average.

## Other Feed Grains

Weather also reduced indications for the oats crop. The prospect of 1.3 billion bushels is 6 percent less than a month ago, 4 percent less than the 1951 figure, and 3 percent below average. The barley crop now estimated at 218 million bushels is 5 percent above the July forecast, but 14 percent less than in 1951. The 1952 indication for the sorghum grain crop is the smallest since

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	June 15 1952	July 15 1952	July 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.06	1.98	2.45
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.73	1.73	1.78
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.3	10.3	13.3
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	38.02	38.02	37.02
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	3.10	2.74	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	19.40	20.00	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	26.70	26.00	21.00
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	30.70	28.80	23.50
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	25.80	25.50	23.10
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 77.0	1/ 76.9	76.4
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 4.91	1/2/ 4.89	4.80
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	24.7	26.0	32.3
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 39.7	1/ 44.6	50.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.



1939. It is only 46 percent as large as last year's crop and 55 percent of the 10-year average.

### Flaxseed Production on the Decline

Production prospects for flaxseed increased about 5 percent from the July forecast. Production is now estimated at 29.7 million bushels. This is 12 percent below the 1951 production and 22 percent below the 10-year average.

### Small Sweetpotato Crop

This year's prospective sweetpotato crop is below that harvested in each year since 1881. The crop is now indicated at 28.3 million bushels compares with last year's crop of 28.3 million and the 10-year average of 57.7 million.

### Peanut Production Drops

Peanut production in 1952 is forecast at 1,172 million pounds, 30 percent below the 1951 crop and 43 percent below the 10-year average.

### Sugar Beets and Sugarcane

Sugar beets prospects have improved since July, but the 1952 crop of 9.9 million tons is below last year and the 10-year average. The prospective production of sugarcane for sugar and seed has increased 2 percent since July and compares favorably with last year's crop and the 10-year average.

### Deciduous Prospects Down

The forecast for deciduous fruit production is down 3 percent from the July estimate. Production will be 10 percent less than 1951 and 6 percent below the 10-year average.

### Citrus Outlook Good

The citrus crop still looks promising. Trees and the new crop are in good condition in Florida.

### Dry Beans and Peas

The 1952 dry bean prospects are slightly higher than a month ago. The crop is estimated at 15.8 million bags (100 lbs. uncleaned), the smallest since 1945 and 9 percent less than 1951. Prospects for the dry pea crop have remained around the July forecast. The indication of 2.7 million bags (100 lbs. uncleaned) is about 28 percent below last year's production and less than half the 10-year average.

### Estimates of Other Crops with Comparisons

Durum wheat, 23.4 million bushels. Production last year 35.8 million; average, 38 million.  
Other spring wheat, 212 million bushels. Production last year, 306 million; average, 247 million.  
Broomcorn, 28 thousand tons. Production last year, 34 thousand; average, 41 thousand.  
Apples (Com'l crop), 98 million bushels. Production last year, 111 million; average, 110 million.  
Peaches, 61 million bushels. Production last year, 64 million; average, 68 million.  
Pears, 30 million bushels. Production last year, 30 million; average, 30.3 million.  
Grapes, 3 million tons. Production last year, 3.4 million; average, 2.8 million.  
Plums, 64 thousand tons. Production last year, 102 thousand; average, 84 thousand.  
Pecans, 117 million pounds. Production last year, 155 million; average, 123 million.  
Apricots, 173 thousand tons. Production last year, 183 thousand; average, 229 thousand.  
Sweet cherries (12 States), 96 thousand tons. Production last year, 72 thousand; average, 92 thousand.  
Sour cherries (12 States), 106 thousand tons. Production last year, 158 thousand; average, 99 thousand.  
Hops, 61 thousand pounds. Production last year, 63 thousand; average, 49 thousand.

### Low Milk Production

July milk production on farms, now past its seasonal peak, was the lowest for the month in a dozen years. The quantity produced in July is estimated at 11.0 billion pounds, 3 percent below the 1951 figure for July.

### Increase in Feeding of Grain and Concentrates

The deterioration of pasture feed over much of the country increased the amount of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows to make it the heaviest for July in 9 years.

### 4 and a Half Billion Eggs in July

Farm flocks laid 4.5 billion eggs in July. This was 2 percent less than in July 1951, but 3 percent more than the 1941-50 average for the month.

### Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Prices

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-July averaged 43.3 cents per dozen compared with 46.6 cents last year. Prices for farm chickens and commercial broilers averaged 26.0 cents live weight on July 15, compared with 24.7 cents on June 15 and 28.1 cents a year ago. Turkey prices on July 15 averaged 31.9 cents per pound live weight, compared with 35.3 cents a year ago.

### Livestock Slaughter

Larger slaughter of cattle, but a smaller slaughter of hogs, in comparison with last fall is indicated for this fall. A general uptrend in cattle slaughter is beginning and is likely to continue for several years because of the rising number of cattle on farms.

### Cash Receipts for First Seven Months up from Last year

Cash receipts by farmers for marketings in the first seven months of 1952 totaled approximately 15.7 billion dollars. This was 2 percent more than in the first seven months of 1951. The volume of marketing was about 5 percent larger than last year, but prices averaged a little lower. Cash receipts for July were about 2.5 billion dollars which was slightly less than July of 1951.

### Farm Employment Still Going Down

About 11 million people were working on the Nation's farms in July. For the country as a whole, 4 percent fewer people were working on farms in late July than a year earlier. Dry weather helped ease the work load by hindering the growth of weeds and lessening the need for frequent cultivation.

### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	July 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	295
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	286
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	103
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	279
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	<u>1/</u> 299
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	506
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	<u>1/</u> 584
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-July 1951	Jan.-July 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	72.0	71.0
Eggs, (bil.).....	37.9	39.2
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	<u>2/</u> 3153	<u>2/</u> 3312
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	<u>2/</u> 223	<u>2/</u> 280
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	<u>2/</u> 5674	<u>2/</u> 5978
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	<u>2/</u> 9304	<u>2/</u> 9825
1/ June figure.		
<u>2/</u> Jan.-June under Federal inspection.		